Attorney's Docket: <u>2000DE442</u> Serial No.: <u>N</u>/A

Art Unit N/A

Preliminary Amendment

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A quaternary ammonium composition is claimed which essentially consists of

a) a cationic compound with general formula:

$$R_1 - N - R_4 - X - R_3$$

wherein R_1 is C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkylamidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl-amidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenoylethyl, R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are C_1 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - C_{22} -alkenyl or a group of the formula -A-(OA)_n-OH, A is - C_2 H₄- and/or - C_3 H₆-, n is a number from 0 to 20 and X is an anion, b) water and c) a non-ionic solvent of the general formula R-O-(AO)_nH, where R is hydrogen, alkyl or alkenyl containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms, or phenyl, A is C_2 H₄ and/or C_3 H₆ and n is a number from 0 to 20, which composition is characterized in that it contains less than 20 % by weight of water.